

NATURAL SETTING Pocahontas County.

Chapter Three.

Part (1) Sec (D).

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BROWNS CREEK; Browns Creek has its source in several in the small branches that give rise in the Hill Country North West of the Knapps Creek, on the Browns-Mountain locally known as the "Horse Ridge" a part of the Browns Mountain.

This stream flows South-West and drains all the section between the Thorny Creek, and the Knapps Creek; It has an entire length of 6 miles with a total fall of 525 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 87.5 feet. and has a drainage area basin of 10. square miles

Its principal source is in a very large spring locally known as the Peter Mc Carty Spring which is located on a branch of the said Browns Creek 0.7 mile north-west of Mt Tabor School, is largely a calcium and magnesium carbonate water issuing near the Helderberg-Bossardville Limestone contact, the elevation of the spring being approximately 2500 feet. A very large and constant flow of sparkling clear water pours out the year round and appears to have but very slight if any change of temperature through the year.

The Browns Creek joins the Knapps Creek near Huntersville, which was the former County Seat of Pocahontas County, and near the junction of Cummins Creek with the conjunction of these branches and Knapps Creek, made an ideal location for the County Seat of Pocahontas County, with the road way ^{leading} down Browns Creek, down and up Knapps Creek, and down Cummins Creek,

Browns Creek, and Browns Mountain, received its name from a John Brown from near Parnassus Augusta County Virginia, who moved to Montgomery County, was a Captain in the Revolutionary War, who owned much of the lands by prescription in the western part of Augusta County, and a part of what is now Pocahontas County

This right of prescription was the first right or privilege, to secure lands which right was granted by the Commonwealth of the State of Virginia, for services in the Revolutionary War.

ARTIFICIAL BODIES OF WATER: In Pocahontas County)

At the present time there are only two bodies of Artificial Water in Pocahontas, The Seneca Lake which is in the bounds of the State Seneca Forest on the waters of the Little Thorny Creek . This Artificial Lake was constructed by the C.C.C. Camp which was located in the Seneca Forest , about the year of 1934 This small lake covers about seven acres of ground is about 15 feet deep is provided with small boats it is a great swimming resort ^{six} ~~four~~ cabins are built for visitors to use . This is a real beautiful little artificial lake and many tourist visit this place every year. It is situated in Game refuge of the Seneca Park; many Deer, and wild Turkeys , and Grouse , may be seen along the road going to the Lake. This lake is reached by a hard gravelled surfaced road with an easy grade and graceful curves , crossing a spur of the Thomas Mountain to the Little Thorny Creek

At the Seneca artificial Lake constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps a recreational area has been developed into one of the most appealing outdoors vacation spots in the State . The high elevation adds to the comfort of a summer visit. Six cabins at the lake provide adequate lodgings. Boating, and swimming, and fishing are possible in the Lake , and a special playground for children has been constructed near the cabin area. Those who prefer water sports on the River can obtain cottages on the banks of the Greenbrier , at the western edge of the forest, seneca is reached by a secondary road leading from Huntersville on State Route No 28

Seneca State Forest contains 11050 acres is situated in the heart of Pocahontas County's white pine area, and has a long history as a state forest and game refuge . As a result , the population of deer in this area today probably is the greatest in the State, further large numbers of squirrels , grouse, and other game are to be found , despite controlled shooting during the last two hunting seasons.

In accordance with Seneca's functions as a timber farm, experiment of Chestnut plantings to develop a blight-resistant species, are of more than usual interest. White Pine stand improvement other forestry practices can be readily observed.

The name of the Seneca State Forest was given it by the State Game Commission at the request of Hon - Andrew Price, in honor of the famous Seneca Indians which was one of the tribe of the Iroquois Indians formerly of the western New York; the most numerous and warlike of the Five Nations. They still number over three thousand, the greater portion being in New York, and small bands being in Ontario and Oklahoma.

The Seneca Indians; from whom the Seneca Forest was so named, formed a war path after a treaty at Albany in the year of 1722, which ^{had} ~~was~~ confirmed the act of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, making the Allegheny Mountain the division line between the lands allotted to the Indians, and the lands that could be settled by the white people, a line that was observed with more or less fidelity until about the time of the Revolution.

A well-traveled road was established by the Seneca Tribe the most powerful of the Five Nations over which they traveled from the waters of the St. Lawrence to the northern part of Georgia, this Seneca trail passes through Pocahontas County, and they were at all times informed of the acts of the pioneer settlers, in breaking the agreement to remain on the eastern side of the Allegheny Mountain.

The old Seneca War Path is still visible in many places, it is plain to be seen on the ridge north west of Marlinton; the path way is worn down deep in the earth, and large trees are growing up in the center of the old Seneca Indian trail.

ARTIFICIAL LAKE IN WATOGA STATE PARK.

The Watoga State Park is situated in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County. This is the largest of the State Parks, from the beginning a play area of great popularity, Watoga's luxuriant foliage and wild flower growth has enhanced a mountain setting ideal for vacation outings. The Greenbrier River, which many visitors cross by a picturesque ferry ^{at} ~~at~~ Seebert, is the boundary which sets Watoga apart from humdrum activities. Miles of motor roads, as in all state parks and state forests, lead to cabin areas and administration headquarters.

At the headquarters, situated above a 11-acre artificial lake, is a dining room, a park store, curio shop and superintendent's office. Boats and bicycles may be rented. The twenty five cabins, divided in two general cabin groups, seem lost in the vastness of the area. A new picnic ground area and playground have been completed. Work on a concrete swimming pool, one of the largest of such pools ~~have~~ in the State is being pushed during winter in the expectation that it may be ready for use during the coming summer. A riding academy provides gaited horses for rides along the bridle paths. A large herd of Deer has made this park its home. The profusion of growing things led to the establishment of a memorial arboretum under sponsorship of the West Virginia Academy of Science, where visitors may see scores of varied and wild flowers and other native wild plants in their native habitat.

This Artificial Lake which is situated on the Island Lick Run in the north eastern part of Park area it covers more than 11 acres and is approximately 30 feet deep. It is clear at all times, it is supplied with Rainbow, and Brook Trout, and Bass, and a colony of Beaver is located at the head of the lake. This Lake was called KILLBUCK Lake after an Indian Chieftain of the Shawnee tribe who gave the pioneer settlers trouble, for a long series of years and when hostilities ceased went to his home in Ohio.